## **HUNT LAW FIRM**

DATE 2.12.07
His 9
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Cultural & Aesthetics Project Advisory Committee

P.O. Box 202201

July 21, 2006

Helena, MT 59620-2201

Dear Advisory Committee:

The Montana Shakespeare Company (MSC) is a cultural and business asset to Helena and Montana. My family and I have been involved with MSC since 2002 on many levels. As an audience member, parent of a young actress in the shows, board member, host family, and owner of a business which is a major sponsor of MSC, I have a unique overview of the importance of this organization in Helena.

While Helena has a thriving theater community, the chance to work with actors from around the country and to perform Shakespeare for an entire summer season is exclusive to MSC. The quality and professionalism of these shows is outstanding and the experience local and out-of-town actors receive through their work with director, Kim DeLong, is unparalleled in the Helena area. I believe the high percentage of returning actors each summer is a testament to this aspect of MSC.

As a business member of the Helena community, I am proud to sponsor MSC and believe my financial contribution is an excellent investment in our community. I feel very strongly that the quality of work MSC produces each year reflects my own commitment to quality. I regularly bring friends, business associates, and clients to the shows and have always been impressed with how MSC is able to engage even the most reluctant of Shakespeare audience members. I have invited guests to the shows and then seen them attend additional performances on their own, and/or make financial contributions to the organization because they were so taken by the tremendous productions. Once they see a show, they are hooked.

Helena and Montana need art organizations like MSC that benefit actors, audiences and communities. However, as with all art organizations, it needs financial support in addition to box office sales. We would be very appreciative if you would approve our grant request of \$17,000 to provide partial funding for an Executive Artistic Director. The gift from the Cultural Trust Fund will help ensure that the economic and cultural influence earned by MSC over the past ten years can continue well into the future.

Kim DeLong and managing director, Martha Sprague, have had a lasting impact on the Helena theater community and on theater statewide. I would stongly urge you to support the work of MSC through this grant. I will conclude with a quote from a six-year-old audience member who said to his father as they were leaving one of MSC's shows, "Dad, that was better than TV!"

Thank you for your consideration of the grant.

Sincerely,

JAMES G. HUNT

## Montana State Legislature

## Exhibit Number 20

This exhibit is two brochures that can not be scanned due to unusual dimensions and packaging. The front and is scanned to aid in your research. The original is on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there.

EXHIBIT 20 DATE 2/12/07 HB 9

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much of a good thing?

Jan one desire too much !

• ARTISTS GROUP, INC. 6137 MOONDANCE RD. HELENA, MT 59601.

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